(iv) दिंडीगुल-त्रिची
(v) चेन्नई बीच-तिरुचिरापल्ली
(vi) मुदखेल-आदिलाबाद
(vii) बैय्यपनहल्ली-यशवंतपुर

दोहरीकरण

(i) पटना-परसाबाजार (पटना-गयाः चरण-I)
(ii) विकाराबाद-तांदूर (वाडि-सिकंदराबाद खंड)
(iii) उरकुरा-रायपुर-सरौना
(iv) रघुनाथपुर-रेहामा
(v) कोरबा-सरगबुंदिया
(vi) कोटा-गुरला (चम्बल पुल)
(vii) हेतमपुर-घर (चम्बल पुल)

(ग) जी नहीं।

(घ) 1998-99 के दौरान निम्नलिखित कार्यों की लक्ष्य के अनुसार पूरा होने की संभावना नहीं है और संशोधित लक्ष्य निम्नानुसार हैः—

		पूरा करने की नई लक्ष्य तिथि
(i)	गोलपारा-गुवाहाटीः नई लाइन	1999-2000
(ii)	मुदखेड-आदिलाबादः आमान परिवर्तन	1999-2000
(iii)	पटना-परसाबाजार (पटना-गयाः चरण-I): दोहरीकरण	1999-2000
(iv)	बैय्यपनहल्ली-यशवंतपुरः आमान परिवर्तन	1999-2000

*बशर्ते की बोल्ट (निर्माण, स्वामित्व, पट्टा, हस्तांतरण) ठेकेदार द्वारा पर्याप्त धन जुटा लिया जाए।

रेलवे के योजना व्यय में कटौती

617. **श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 1998-99 के वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान राजस्व की कम प्राप्ति के कारण सरकार ने रेलवे के योजना व्यय में 10 प्रतिशत कटौती करने का फैसला किया है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में तथ्य क्या है और चालू वर्ष के दौरान बजट अनुमानों की तुलना में राजस्व आय किस सीमा तक कम होने का अनुमान है; और

(ग) इस कम राजस्व प्राप्ति के कारण सरकार ने किन-किन मदों से कितनी-कितनी कटौती करने का निश्चय है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) रेलवे ने पुनः अनुमान लगाया है और आमदनी में कमी होने के कारण उपयुक्त रूप से अपनी योजना परिव्यय में 7.8% की कमी कर दी है।

(ख) आमदनी 1998-99 बजट अनुमान से लगभग 1056 करोड़ रुपए कम होने की संभावना है।

(ग) योजना खर्च में 745 करोड़ रुपए की कमी अनुमानित है और गैर-योजना खर्च के अंतर्गत 345 करोड़ रुपए की बचत अनुमानित है।

Setting up of a Sophisticated Astronomical Observatory

618. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Astrophysics is considering to set up a sophisticated astronomical observatory; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be operational?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore is setting up a 2-meter telescope at Hanle in southeastern Ladakh to conduct studies/research in Optical and Infrared Astronomy. The project has been approved for implementation at a total outlay of

Rs. 38.49 crores during the Ninth Plan period. The project is expected to be completed by 2002.

Publicity to weather forecasts by NCMRWF

619. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in Hindustan Times of 8th January, 1999 under the caption 'weather bureaucracy lets farmers down', stated that the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) knew five days in advance that there would be rains on 6th January, 1999, but this was not given wide publicity and farmers could not be benefited from the knowledge of coming rains; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to ensure that such forecasts get wide publicity and farmers and public in general get benefited from such knowledge?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The user organisation was apprised of the situation by India Meteorological Deptt. in advance and had also issued a general advice on December, 30, 1998 on "Weather During the Week". In this advice, while giving the outlook for the week ending on January, 6, 1999, it was mentioned that prolonged dry spell prevailing over North India is likely to be replaced by a wet weather sequence in the 2nd. half of the week ending January, 6. Therefore, IMD had, in fact, made a forecast about the rainfall for the said period. NCMRWF also makes available its inputs to IMD for validation purposes who, in turn, have been giving weather related information advisories for the farmers.

Taking note of the news item, the Director General, IMD and the Director General, NCMRWF have been advised to further harmonise their working relationship to provide advisories for the use by the farming community promptly.

Prediction of Earthquake by N.G.R.I. Scientists

620. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Questions 1547, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th December, 1998 and state:

(a) whether a report on the forecast about the major earthquake in Sone-Narmada-Tapti basin in Central Asia has been obtained from the superannuated scientist of NGRI; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what further action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The report on the subject was sought from the superannuated scientist. Some documents have been received, indicating that the studies carried out have been based on host of geophysical parametric studies and the history of occurrences of the earthquakes. Also as per the advice of the superannuated scientist, the Collector, East Nimar, Khandwa (M.P.) had insured 36,180 persons of 23 villages in October 1998. It is for the State Governments to follow up on such forecasts and take appropriate measures.